

BATHING DANGEROUS, CONTEND THE HOBOES

"Curly" Tells Why "Road Boys" Shun Water.

Portland, Ore.—While medical authorities maintain that one should bathe to be healthy, a different school of thought prevails in the ranks of "hobo" stiffs.

"Little Curly" Davis, a tight-lipped construction camp, known throughout many western states as a hobo, who never yet has disgraced himself by feeding, watering or carrying a horse, was the leader in a recent discussion in refuting the alleged bunk that warm baths are beneficial to the physical man.

"The supposition of hobo preferring dirt stained new clothing recently with the publication of a story from London, pointing out that British troops are shaming workhouses since the establishment of a rule compelling them to take warm baths.

"Those British troops are right," said Curly, who, strangely enough, based on sound, scientific purposes.

"That's an" agreed a sort-of "hobo," who had just completed about the toughness of cops in the region "around the horn" in southwest Iowa. And the hard-fisted student of Huxley nearly added his head to agreement. So did an Irishman who had been objecting to the use of city per wire because of the Ansonia mine in Butte is in general use in Canada, should transmit all juice, was his idea.

But why the shunning of warm baths if hobo prefer being clean?

"Companions agree," said Curly, "that in the water time a man's body adapts itself to the cold and protection is furnished by an indefinite sort of glow, which hardens the outer skin. This gives the man who is subject to extreme exposure annual cold-resisting possibilities.

"If the film is broken by warm water after one has become accustomed to its protection exposure is likely to result in pneumonia, and sometimes death, the little tramp maintained, and his companions said this was so.

"That is the reason," continued Curly, "that so few of the 'road boys' in hard circumstances choose to bathe. We stand water that would kill the average man; so does any tramp, tramp, tramp, or northern lumberjack."

"It also is the reason the English 'hobo' are shunning the workhouses under the new order."

Kick in Bear's Feet
Tokyo.—It's not picked pick of Japan's fickle appetite of rich Japanese epicures, but bold bear's feet.

It requires about a week to cook properly the rather extremities of a bear, and the cost of a dinner of this kind ranges from 200 to 500 yen, according to the fixings and liquid details.

The latest dinner of boiled bear's feet given in Tokyo was described by the venerable press as a real epicurean event. The host was Yoshi Yamamoto, one of the wealthiest citizens of the capital. He gave a bear's feet dinner once a year.

The origin of bear's feet as food is traced back to China several hundred or more years ago. A war lord captured an enemy general and was about to cut off his head. But, just before the sword was to fall, the war lord had a generous idea and informed the prisoner he would grant his last desire before the decapitation.

"Well, I would like a dinner of bear's feet before I die," replied the thoughtless victim.

The hunt for a bear took about two weeks. In the meantime the defeated general's reinforcements arrived, conquered and captured the war lord and released the general.

Whereupon the head-cutting business was reversed. But, it is related, the general actually ate the bear's feet and found them so much to his liking that he became a bear-foot addict.

Bobbed Hair Is Tabooed
by Women of Holstein
Berlin.—The north German state of Holstein holds a unique record in that there is not a bobbed head to be found among its native women.

If the traveler succeeds in discovering a short-haired representative of the gentler sex, he will find that she has come from elsewhere than this former grand duchy.

The Holstein women, who are famous for their beauty, pride themselves on their thick blond or brown tresses. Even the girls of school age wear long braids and object to cutting off what they are taught is "Jehovah's" crowning glory.

Far from undervaluing their ability to wear a hair, the barbers in towns like Kiel or Flensburg display beautiful braids and curls in their shop windows as an inducement to women whose hair is scant to put their natural crop.

The women are up to the minute in other fashions, such as short skirts, and silk stockings, and they subscribe to fashion journals as avidly as do their sisters in the rest of Germany.

WITCH DOCTORS OF AFRICA FLOURISH

Their Cruel Practices Are Described in a Report.

Cape Argus, South Africa.—The fact that witchcraft is greatly prevalent among natives of South Africa is revealed in the report of the hospital survey committee appointed by the minister of health. This refers to the practice of the witch doctor in the present inherent faith of the natives in it. Whenever a witch doctor is sent for the supposed offender is "smelt out" and the procedure generally ends in torture by fire or stinging by ants and, in cases, the death of the accused person.

In addition his cattle and his property are confiscated. The influence of these witch doctors is very great, almost as great as it was in Kafir wars, such as the opposing tribes had its witch doctor who professed to be able to bewitch the enemy so as to enable them to be successful in battle.

The committee points out that from a mission comes a report that "the cruelty of the witch doctor is the cruelty of the human mind, and the work of witch doctors is terrible. Killing by poisoning is constant and the worst of it all is that there are no records of births and deaths."

The danger from ignorance and superstition, the committee adds, appears even before the birth of a child, when fathers must pay it to a certain kind of witch doctor to prevent the child coming under the evil eye.

The practice generally ends in the death of the child and frequently that of the mother. Half the native children in certain districts where the investigations were carried out die in the first year.

The committee suggests that bush hospitals be erected in which the use of modern medicine can be taught. At the present time, except at a few centers, no medicine or nursing service is available for natives living in remote tribal districts. In the native reserves and locations, "Native witch doctors are flourishing and are teaching the people that sickness is the result of witchcraft and that they alone are able to cure the sick," the report concludes.

"Father of Wireless"

Paid Only \$75 a Month

Paris.—Guglielmo Marconi is cited by newspapers as "giving the world of French scientists to work under miserable conditions. Marconi is inventor of the wireless." France calls him the "father of the wireless."

Marconi had his only assistant in a ramshackle "laboratory" as an agent woman who asked out a living by doing extra hours of housework for other women. This maid of all work is now the scientist's "laboratory chief." She was intelligent and the professor trained her in his work.

For 50 years Marconi worked under these conditions, drawing a salary of \$75 a month as professor and supporting his family by teaching and working as a physician. These facts are told by French papers as illustrating the need to pay well men who give their lives to science.

Britons Try to Walk to

Coney in N. Y. Subway

New York.—An English family, consisting of R. C. Walton, his wife and daughter, started to walk to Coney Island today, but were stopped by a policeman. The family was told to get out of the subway for a footpath until James O'Donnell, subway policeman, made an emergency stop to point out to them "the error of their way."

In England, the word "underground" or "tube" means what Americans know as a subway, and subway means a foot passage under a street or building, so, when the Waltons decided to walk to the beach resort and were told that the subway would be the shortest way there, they entered the Broadway subway of the Brooklyn Manhattan line and started down the express tracks.

Anthropologists Study

Life of the Eskimo

Seattle, Wash.—Traditions, language and manner of life of the more primitive Eskimos of Alaska are being studied by two anthropologists.

Nanivak Island, midway between the Aleutian and Nome is the home of Henry H. Collins, Jr., and T. Dale Stewart of the Smithsonian Institution will explore to record the characteristics of a people who, four centuries ago, had never seen a white man except for an occasional trader. To these people the most simple articles of modern civilization still are "fully unknown."

The two scientists will dig into deserted settlements for pottery, skulls, stone implements and other records of the past. They will work under the auspices of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Council on Learned Societies and Smithsonian Institution.

On Nanivak, the natives live in single-room dugouts, burn blubber for heat and eat fish, from or smelt and seal oil and an occasional "white" whale or walrus.

The women are up to the minute in other fashions, such as short skirts, and silk stockings, and they subscribe to fashion journals as avidly as do their sisters in the rest of Germany.

WOMAN SKIPPER WAS BOSS OF RIVER BOAT

Captain Leathers Talks of the Old Days.

New Orleans.—Piloting a household is much more difficult than directing the progress of a Mississippi river steamer, declares Mrs. Blanche Leathers, who has done both successfully.

Mrs. Leathers is the only regularly licensed woman captain of a Mississippi river steamer.

"The worst I ever heard of on the river in my years of association with men was a little clean cursing," she says. "Women are much worse than men."

Captain Leathers directed the activities of the steamer Natchez, fourth of that name. It was a direct "diamond" of the Natchez which made the memorable race up the river with the Robert R. Lee.

Jefferson Davis a passenger on her boat on the last trip to the Mississippi plantation. He gave her a bottle of raw Mafra wine with the parting injunction the wine should be opened in honor of her first child.

River steaming was in its heyday during the period in which the Natchez moved majestically up and down the stream. Gamblers made regular trips with the cotton planters, who were their greatest prey.

Captain Leathers saw fortunes made and lost aboard the boat. Plantations were mortgaged, she says, to the debts to the "gentlemen of the green cloth."

The Natchez also had its bar. Here Southern gentlemen slipped mint juleps or drank their whisky straight. Many dinner parties with dances or the accompaniment of banjos and guitars took place on the Natchez.

But there was a serious side to the life, too. Passengers, sometimes numbering 500, had to be looked after as well as crew and boat. Once she brought the Natchez into New Orleans with 5,000 bales of cotton aboard. Wrecks and near wrecks came into her experience.

With the demand for more speedy transportation and the growing popularity of railroads, business slumped and the Natchez finally went under the auctioneer's hammer. After the death of her husband, son of the captain of the first Natchez, Mrs. Leathers put the river to rest.

Teacher Finds Her Class

of '66 All Still Alive

Pepla, Wis.—An unusual attendance in this day of shifting population was recorded recently when Mrs. Hannah Warttino, La Crosse, revisited her home school at Hilda Valley, near here. When she called the roll of the pupils she had in 1866, she found every one who had been in the school.

Five men and two women made up the entire "student body" in the little rural schoolhouse of 1866 that stood on the site where a modern brick building houses the 40 pupils now.

Mrs. Warttino, the teacher of 66 years ago, is now eighty-four, and requires the support of a crutch, but she got around to meet many of the old friends that she made in that early school. She still is a staunch friend of education and two of her daughters are teachers.

City Builds Bat Roost

for War on Mosquitoes

Stuttgart, Texas.—This city is making provisions for accommodating 10,000 bats within its limits. Not that the bat is attractive or makes a good pet but he is considered valuable as a foe of mosquitoes.

An old structure near the city has been purchased and will be converted into a steeply pitched building to serve as a bat roost, as an ideal location since bats usually fly with the wind and the wind usually prevails from the southwest.

They start out at nightfall, catching any insects they pass in the air. At midnight, it is said, they turn back alarm clock, reaching their roost by dawn the following morning.

Bats will be placed in the old building to lure visiting bats to make their home here.

Death Wins a Wager

Kolberg, Germany.—The village tailor here made a bet he could drink 50 glasses of "korn," a fiery brandy distilled from wheat. He drank the 50 glasses all right, but when he started across the room to collect his wager he dropped dead.

Truck Versus College

New York.—Fred Phillips III, son of a wealthy Villa Nova (Pa.) family is driving an express truck here. "I took the job because I needed the money," he explains. "But I'd rather drive a truck any time than go to college."

Surgeons Must Fly

Washington.—"Flight surgeons" of the naval aviation corps have been ordered to wear parachutes. A department ruling requires them to fly before being eligible for increased pay.

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ESTABLISHED 1899

Day School Lesson

For September 18

KINDOM DIVIDED

For September 18

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